

10/7/85

Mr. Bruce McInney  
Communications Arts Department  
La Salle University  
Phila., Pa. 19141

Dear Bruce,

Glad to hear from you.

Credit the correct spellings to "il. During the years I farmed I forgot all I knew of grammar and much of spelling and she caught them, to the best of my recollection, all of them. Or, I was insensitive in reading.

I never had any trouble getting around in Phila. by car but the last time I drove there, after an absence from before World War II, was in 1967, and I used the expressways and then headed into the suburbs, so it wasn't all that bad for me. In the different, unhurried world of my youth the street cars gave fine service and covered the entire town, helped a little first by the elevateds and then by the subway. I recall the subway construction and used it when it was new.

Separations are part of life and then aren't pleasant when there are strong feelings. But they are almost always followed by new unions. Just wait! And look.

Doing an article is a good idea and your institution will love your publishing. They all do. You might think of more than one.

I guess I shouldn't be surprised that 20 and Olney today is a bad neighborhood. It was a good one in my youth. But I have little recollection of it now. Germantown had some fine shopping facilities and as I recall some of the women in my central-city, now slum neighborhood used to go there Saturdays by trolley. We were 19 north and 19 west. Haven't been there since the mid-30s when both paternal grandparents died.

Don't be discouraged that the students are not as sharp as you'd like. Try to turn them on and see if they are better than they show. Probably they are like a majority at Penn State, from which you remember the best. I hear that most have to spend much of their first year learning what they were supposed to have learned in high school, particularly in English and in writing.

Seems to me that when I was a kid I had a piano teacher not far from where you now are. Used the trolley to get there and back. More small world, in college I had a girl friend who lived in what then was a very good neighborhood and more recently was burned by the MOVE police operation. The 58 or 59th Street shops there also were fine, including foreign groceries. In the summer between high school and college I was on 58th daily going from near Memorial Hall to 58 and Florence, where I ran a miniature golf course. Yup, trolley, which gave plenty of time for reading.

Give it time; you'll like it.

Lil also sends her best,